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Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABU DH 00765 211215Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------070478 211511Z /50
R 211055Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7551
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I AL ABU DHABI 0765
EXDIS
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, EG, SA, TC, KU
SUBJECT: FUNDING OF F-5'S FOR EGYPT

REF: STATE 68709

1. ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER UAE WILL BE WILLING SHARE WITH SAUDI ARABIA COST OF F-5S FOR EGYPT, UAE'S TRACK RECORD WOULD INDICATE THAT IT IS LIKELY TO DO SO. THERE WILL BE RELUCTANCE TO NEW OUTLAY FOR EGYPTIAN ARMS AMONG A NUMBER OF ZAYID'S PEERS AND ADVISERS WHO BELIEVE THAT UAE MUNIFICENCE SHOULD BEGIN AT HOME, BUT WE EXPECT THAT UAE PRESIDENT SHAIKH ZAYID AND FONMIN SUWAIDI WILL SEE OVERRIDING POLITICAL REASONS FOR TAKING SOME OF THE FINANCIAL LOAD. THIS WELL BE CASE PARTICULARLY IF SAUDIS TAKE LEAD IN ARRANGING FINANCING AND IN PERSUADING OTHER OIL RICH DONORS TO GO ALONG.

2. PROCUDURE OUTLINED PARA 6 REFTEL STRIKES US AS VAST IMPORVEMENT OVER PREVIOUS METHODS UNTILIZED. AS DEPT AWARE, UAE HAS FINANCED TWO JORDANIAN FMS
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CASES AS WELL AS C-130'S FOR EGYPT. FOR JORDAN, WE STILL FIND OURSELVES IN MIDDLE TRYING TO GET PAYMENT FOR BALANCE DUE OVER THE ABOVE INITIAL COST ESTIMATE. UAE SAYS THIS IS JORDAN'S RESPONSIBILITY AND SO FAR NOTHING HAS BEEN DONE. FOR EGYPTIAN C-130S, UAE PAID MORE THAN WAS DUE AND IS STILL WAITING TO LEARN IF THERE WILL BE ANY MONEY RETURNED AFTER FMS

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FINAL BILLING COMPLETED. AT LEAST, IF EACH DONOR GETS A COPY OF BILLING TO EGYPT OF WHAT IS DUE AND KNOWS WHAT EACH OTHER DONOR IS PAYING, THIS WILL AVOID ANY SUSPICIONS THAT MONEY UAE TRANSFERS TO EGYPT FOR F-5 PURCHASES WILL GO FOR OTHER PURPOSES OR THAT IT BEING ASKED CONTRIBUTE MORE THAN ACTUAL COSTS.
DICKMAN

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER MS. KENNEDY, S/S-O.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 21 mar 1978
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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